

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: RIO TREATY NEGOTIATIONS

REFERENCE: STATE 233018 & STATE 266335

1. DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE RIO TREATY WERE APPROVED BY A MAJORITY IN A VOTE IN SUB-COMMITTEE I OF THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE DECEMBER 13. THE APPROVED AMENDMENTS ARE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN REFEELS. PANAMA AND PERU, ALTHOUGH PRESENT, DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTING BECAUSE CHANGES IN THE TREATY DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO SATISFY THEIR BASIC DEMANDS. VENEZUELA ABSTAINED ON MOST OF THE AMENDMENTS BECAUSE IT ALSO SAID THE REFORM OF THE TREATY WAS NOT PROFOUND ENOUGH. IN ADDITION, BRAZIL ABSTAINED ON ALL VOTES BECAUSE ITS OWN INTERNAL CLEARANCE PROCEDURE WAS NOT COMPLETED. BRAZIL MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT ITS ABSTENTION IN NO WAY MEANT DISAPPROVAL (ABSTENTION IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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OAS IS A POLITE QTE NO UNQTE VOTE) AND SPECIFICALLY RE-

ITERATED ITS SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENTS ON ECONOMIC SECURITY AND THE VOTING FORMULA FOR LIFTING SANCTIONS. SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT THEIR FAVORABLE VOTES DID NOT MEAN FINAL APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS.

2. MEXICO, ONE OF THE STRONGEST PROPONENTS FOR LIMITING THE TREATY, CAST THE ONLY YES VOTE FOR TWO OF ITS PROPOSALS: A) ELIMINATING ANY COVERAGE OF NON-OAS AMERICAN STATES (IN ARTICLE 6) AND REQUIRING UN SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL BEFORE BINDING SANCTIONS COULD BE APPLIED (ART. 8). CONSEQUENTLY MEXICO VOTED AGAINST DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 6 AND 8 AND ABSTAINED ON ARTICLE 3.

3. THERE WAS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT, INCLUDING CHILE, FOR CHANGING THE VOTING REQUIREMENT SO THAT SANCTIONS CAN BE LIFTED BY A SIMPLE MAJORITY. (BRAZIL, PERU AND PANAMA ABSTAINED, BUT ARE KNOWN TO SUPPORT THE CHANGE.)

4. ARTICLE 4 WHICH HAS NO NEW TEXT WAS NOT VOTED ON AND WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY SESSION.

5. THE NEXT STEP IS FOR THE FULL SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS AND FORWARD THEM TO THE APRIL OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT THE GA WILL CONSIDER THEM AND SET UP ANOTHER COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH DRAFTING A PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT.

6. EXCEPT FOR THE NEW ARTICLE CALLING FOR A TREATY GUARANTEEING INTEGRAL ECONOMIC SECURITY, WHICH HAD OVERWHELMING LATIN SUPPORT, THE DRAFT AMENDMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE TO THE US. HOWEVER, WE INDICATED IN SEVERAL INSTANCES OUR HOPE THAT MORE PRECISE LANGUAGE WOULD BE FOUND; CONSIDERABLE WORK WILL BE NECESSARY TO CLEAN UP THE DRAFTING, PARTICULARLY IN ARTICLES 3 AND 6, THE TWO MAIN OPERATIVE ARTICLES. KISSINGER

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